

UNCLASSIFIED

K78

ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	CA-01	CIAE-00	INL-00	USNW-00
	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	M-00
	AC-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	OCS-01	OIC-02	OMB-01	DHS-00
	OPIC-01	EPAU-00	PA-00	TFBI-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SCT-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SA-00	EPAE-00
	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/007W					

-----97FBC1 251209Z /38

P 251207Z AUG 03
 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5852
 INFO USDOC WASHDC
 NSC WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC
 PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 FBIS BANGKOK TH
 AMEMBASSY BEIJING
 AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
 AMCONSUL CHENNAI
 AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
 AMEMBASSY DHAKA
 AMCONSUL HONG KONG
 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
 AMCONSUL KARACHI
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 AMCONSUL MUMBAI
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USMISSION GENEVA
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 COMSEVENTHFLT
 USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 004581

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, KMDR, IN, CASC

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ, WTO, INDIA-PAK RELATIONS AND
 KASHMIR, INDIA AND ISRAEL, CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM,
 LIBERIA, IRAN; NEW DELHI

- STATE FOR NP, AC, PM
- STATE FOR INR/MR
- STATE FOR SA/INS, PM/CBM, PM/PRO
- STATE FOR SA/PD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 08 MAY 2009 200706444

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- STATE FOR AID/APRE-A
- USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA
- FOR BILL MURPHY
- USUN ALSO FOR CHUCK MAST

MEDIA REACTION:IRAQ

1. "PROTECTING SPECIAL INTERESTS," editorial in the August 23 centrist THE HINDU. "The claim made by the Bush administration, that it fought the Iraq war in order to reform West Asia, gets progressively exposed as it implements measures that benefit Iraqis less and others more. A decision taken by Bush to grant wide legal immunity to companies that deal in Iraqi oil makes this abundantly clear. Bush conferred this immunity by means of an Executive Order ... The extraordinary Order protecting U.S. oil firms from legal action taken by all other claimants on Iraqi oil, foreign or domestic, on any ground whatsoever symbolizes neo-colonialism of the 21st century. The grant of this wide immunity is part of a pattern of special treatment that the Bush administration has extended to U.S. oil interests since the start of the invasion. Iraq's petroleum installations were left largely undamaged by the invading force ... the Coalition Provisional Authority ... ensured that Iraq's oil facilities were swiftly repaired. By contrast, the Authority has taken its time to restore civic amenities ... The Authority has virtually wound up the search for the weapons of mass destruction that Iraq was alleged to have. It is clear it is in no hurry to usher in a democratic order; nor does it appear overly concerned that its actions in Iraq retard the campaign against global terror ... The perception is growing that the American people are paying with the lives of their soldiers and with their taxes for the advancement of powerful special interests. By all accounts, those who campaigned against the invasion of Iraq and now oppose the occupation constitute a minority of Americans. This campaign might be galvanized if the American people become aware that their administration's neo-colonialist designs on Iraq are inimical to their own interests."

2. "BUSH'S VIETNAM," analysis in the August 24 pro-economic-reforms THE ECONOMIC TIMES. "In a world riven by first ideological and then fundamentalist violence, the United Nations has often provided the only beacon of hope in coping with man-made disasters ... Which is why Tuesday's terrorist bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad has shocked international opinion ... The task of peace-making has been complicated by the fact that the UN's two main promoters

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

have relapsed into unilateral action as and when it suited their purpose ... Since the occupation, Iraq has lurched from autocracy to anarchy, with the coalition forces being harried by a guerrilla movement which seems to have the power to strike at will ... Bush has reiterated that while he does not mind a little bit of help from friends turned critics like the French, the Germans and the Russians, all troops sent would have to operate under the US Centcom (central command). However, Chirac, Schroeder and Putin are not buying that line since they feel they are being asked to clean up a mess created by the US-led coalition's unilateral occupation of Iraq. And so Bush is trying to get Turkey, Pakistan and India to play ball, indicating that a UN resolution could be suitably drafted to provide a fig leaf of legitimacy for their entry ... With less than 15 months

to go for the next presidential election, Bush must be wondering whether he has got into something he cannot get out of. America's Vietnam of the 21st century could turn out to be Iraq!

3. "HAS THE US EXPERIMENT IN IRAQ ENDED IN DISASTER?," analysis in the August 24 centrist THE TIMES OF INDIA BY Foreign editor Chidanand Rajghatta and strategic affairs expert Brahma Chellaney.

a. Chidanand Rajghatta says: "Of course Saddam was an evil tyrant. But so are a host of other despots including some of Washington's pet allies. Even accounting for the American geo-political ethic (that subscribes to the view 'He's a bastard, but he is our bastard') in the case of others, it will remain a mystery how a superpower whose intelligence agencies have an annual budget of Dols. 40 billion can fail to nail a single dictator. And instead go to war against a nation whose people did not ask to be saved as Washington is discovering. The US now finds itself in a quagmire, and while still seeming to bark, is bleating to the world asking to be rescued. The world can smirk at Washington, or get to work, not so much to save American pride but to save Iraqi hide. Washington meanwhile needs to get back to fighting the real war on terrorism and look for a 6'4" Saudi and a one-eyed mullah who have been all but forgotten because of a pot-bellied Iraqi."

b. Brahma Chellaney is of the opinion that "The chaos in Iraq breeding resistance and terrorism is entirely US made ... Having destabilized Iraq, they now seek troops from other nations to stabilize the situation there. It could have been a different story had they kept their imperial ambitions limited to deposing Saddam and worked with

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

existent Iraqi institutions to introduce reforms ... As the Al Qaeda and Taliban regroup and the footprint of every major international terror attack can be traced back to the Pak-Afghan belt, the US turns a blind eye to Pakistani state terrorism against India in order to win Musharraf's cooperation on the Afghan front. All this puts India in a strange dilemma ... The US can forget about getting an Indian army division to Iraq. India has to help itself rather than those who have left it in the lurch in its fight against terror. Before it sinks into an unwinnable situation, the US should change course. It needs to cede authority in Iraq to the UN, and pay more attention to Afghanistan, now under NATO command. More modest goals can help it to recoup."

4. "THE WILD WEST," analysis in the August 23 nationalist THE Hindustan Times by Bhaskar Ghose," On ... August 17, American soldiers in Baghdad murdered a television journalist, a cameraman with Reuters, 43-year-old Mazen Dana. This was the second journalist they have murdered, and in each case a spokesman said it was an accident ... But it was no accident, according to those who were right there and saw it happen. Nael al-Shyoukhi, a sound recordist with Reuters, said, "The soldiers saw us and they knew our identities and mission ... the US soldiers in Iraq are frighteningly incompetent. They are the most lethally equipped soldiers the world has ever seen, and yet lack the one thing that soldiers in lesser equipped armies such as the Indian soldier, have - resolution, determination and discipline, and a cool head in times of crisis ... In the years to come, the US president, judging by his actions and words, will pick other countries to 'liberate'. And as he goes ahead with his dream of an American Empire, he would do well to remember that those who founded empires did it with troops which were, above all, disciplined and mentally tough

... But what's the US government going to do? The answer is obvious: nothing. That, of course, is their privilege. But then they shouldn't be surprised when they find that Americans are hated in very many countries, and that the death of American soldiers causes much satisfaction. These are killers of people who do not even carry arms, journalists and cameramen. And of women and children, some of whom they maim, leaving them armless or legless or blind. To ask people to embrace such people as liberators is something only the extremely foolish would expect.

5. "SADDAM HEADING FOR PAKISTAN," analysis in the August 24 pro-BJP right-of-center THE PIONEER by B. Raman.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

a. "The US is at our mercy. One leg caught in Afghanistan and the other in Iraq. Allah-o-Akbar!" So said Prof Hafeez Mohammad Sayeed, the head of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), while addressing a religious congregation earlier this month at Muridke, near Lahore ... The LeT, which is a member of bin Laden's International Islamic Front (IIF) and which is now acting as the standard bearer of Al Qaeda and the IIF, claims that its martyrs' squad in Iraq is protecting Saddam and trying to spirit him out of Iraq to Pakistan so that he could be saved from the hands of the American special forces ... The US continues to grope in the dark in Iraq - literally as well as figuratively ... The US is only now reluctantly admitting that its troops are facing a well-organized and well-led jihad. Its hopes of the jihad collapsing after the death of the two sons of Saddam in an encounter with US forces have been belied so far.

b. "It is not in the interests of India and other democracies that the US falters in Afghanistan and Iraq and is bloodied and beaten by the jihadis ... If the US fails to prevail over the jihadi terrorists, they will run amok all over the Asian region adding to the difficulties of India and the countries of South-East Asia. How one could help the USA without getting involved in a bloody counter-insurgency operation in Iraq is a question which needs the urgent attention of our policy-makers. This should also be discussed with Prime Minister Sharon of Israel during his expected visit to India next month. There is also an urgent need for mid-course policy corrections by the US. Its blind hatred of the Baath Party and witch-hunt of the Baath leaders and members are already proving counter-productive. There is no competent Iraqi elite outside the Baath Party ... It should admit that it had under-estimated Iraqi patriotism and make due amends for it."

6. "BAGHDAD TIME-BOMBS," analysis in the August 25 pro-BJP right-of-center THE PIONEER by columnist Shubha Singh. "The bombing of the United Nations office in Baghdad ... forced Washington to reconsider its position regarding the utility of the UN ... The Bush Administration's sidelining the organization during the build up to the Iraq war had seriously damaged the United Nation's authority. While seeking UN support, Washington still wants to retain control and command of the operation in Iraq ... the United Nations, unlike in other conflict situations such as Afghanistan, has also not had a people-friendly image in Iraq ... Washington has tried to project that wider participation in Iraq would be helping the UN in the hour of need, but the present situation in Iraq is the result of the failure of American post-war policy in the country ... the situation in the

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

country has further deteriorated. Even with a new UN resolution, backed with an appeal by the US, appointed Iraqi interim governing council there is no reason for India to reconsider its decision of not sending troops to Iraq."

7. "SUPERPOWER PRESSURES INDIA AGAIN TO SEND TROOPS TO IRAQ," top story in August 25 independent Calcutta Bengali ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA by New Delhi Bureau Chief Jayanta Ghosal: "America and Britain have again become active to acquiesce India to send troops to Iraq. America is trying hard to push the UNSC in requesting member nations soon to send their troops. American and British diplomats have already started to impress upon the Vajpayee government so India does not dither in taking a positive decision once the UN resolution is passed. However, the Vajpayee government still remains steadfast against sending of its troops since they will have to work under the US command in spite of going there for peacekeeping at the behest of the UN ... Still a section of the government feels, there should not be any dillydallying if a stamp of approval is available from the UN. It estimates that it would be much easier for getting things done by Pakistan through America on the Kashmir issue if India chooses to agree on sending troops ... America and Britain are going whole-hog on this issue and Prime Minister Blair may soon phone Vajpayee to implore his assent ... political circles believe that the Vajpayee government may not ultimately risk itself in sending troops in the wake of upcoming elections in five states ... If America still insists, India may send troops to Liberia as a peacekeeping force."

8. "BAGHDADI BOOMERANG", editorial in the August 22, Mumbai edition of left-of-center Marathi daily LOKSATTA. "The war in Iraq has not yet proved an eye-opener for America. There were two major bomb explosions in Baghdad within a span of 48 hours, of which the first was a suicide bomb ... flung at the office of the United Nations. Sergio Vieira de Mello ... was killed, along with 20 others, in this truck-bomb attack on Tuesday. Going by the news items in the American newspapers, de Mello was the pre-decided target of this bombing. The US is yet to realize that its blind and extremist policies have literally jeopardized America's interests. The American leaders like to believe that the families of the American soldiers in Iraq will take solace in the fact that only UN officials are being targeted by the terrorists in Iraq (and that American soldiers are safe) ... But the reactions of common Iraqis, which were recently published in the WASHINGTON POST, are indicative of the general popular dislike harbored against America and Britain in Iraq. Despite the fall of Baghdad, the average Iraqi

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

has not forgiven the American government. On the contrary, their loyalty towards Saddam has not diluted ... Even after the attack on the UN office, President Bush intends to request the UN for committing additional troops to Iraq ... Both England and America had ... set aside this international body while invading Iraq, and now they want the same UN to call for additional troops. As is obvious, the additional troops will not hail from America. The trick is to call for soldiers from countries like India, Pakistan and Turkey to protect the American troops in Iraq ... Except for Turkey, no other country will be willing to make this sacrifice ... The identity of terrorists attacking UN officials in Baghdad may not have been revealed so far, but it is clear that these attacks are being engineered by those who do not want America's permanent hold over Iraq. Such attacks, which are bound to recur, are mere marks of protest against America's foreign policy ... American leaders maintain that these attacks (like the one on Tuesday in Baghdad) cannot be credited to terrorist organizations like Al Qaeda. The leaders know that if the presence of Al Qaeda is acknowledged in Iraq, it might create an unmanageable fear psychosis in the minds of Americans. Therefore, the American government is trying hard to pin the blame solely on Saddam's supporters.''

WTO

9. "WAKING UP TO WTO," analysis in the August 25 centrist THE INDIAN EXPRESS by former finance minister P. Chidambaram. "One of the persistent myths in developing countries is that developing countries do not need the World Trade Organization (WTO). And that the WTO is more pain than gain ... Trade is the driver of the world economy as well as a nation's economy ... The WTO is, currently, the only legal multilateral institution ... All other multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, function not on the basis of rules, but on the basis of consensus (wherever possible) or on the basis of balance of power. The United States, for example, can ignore a resolution of the UN Security Council, but it cannot disobey a ruling by the dispute settlement body of the WTO ... Agriculture must remain India's priority item in the forthcoming negotiations ... India's concerns on Agriculture are more 'livelihood' than commercial concerns, although it is trite that growing commerce (i.e. exports) in agricultural products will bring tremendous improvement in the lives of the farmers ... At Cancun, the battle will be intense and, sometimes, bitter. Jaitley has rightly listed the three pillars of agricultural

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

negotiations as domestic support; export subsidy; and market access ... he must guard against the temptation to see negotiations as an end in itself. Negotiations are only the means to an end, which is winning more favorable terms for trade in agricultural products than what is available now. As long as the member countries are seen to be moving forward on this path, Cancun will be only one (albeit important) stop."

10. "FARMING OUT SUBSIDIES, PRE-CANCUN," analysis in the August 23 pro-economic-reforms THE ECONOMIC TIMES by professor, Center for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade Biswajit Dhar. "The ironing out of the differences between the farm support policies seems to have paved the way for the EU and the US to come to an agreement on the structure of the market access provisions ... The compromise that has now been reached between the US and the EU combines the two approaches to tariff-cuts that they have suggested ... But ... the US and the EU have shown extreme reluctance to carry out meaningful reforms in the subsidies discipline. The flexibility that these large providers of subsidies would have, if the US-EU proposal were accepted, would be quite considerable ... The US-EU deal ... fails to address the problem of large volumes of subsidies that have been at the heart of the enormous distortions that have long been a feature of agricultural markets ... If recent trends are any indication, the levels of domestic support granted by the US in particular, has increased ... The more significant feature of the domestic support measures used by both the US and the EU was that these forms of subsidies were targeted in favor of commodities in which their respective shares in global trade were quite considerable ... Developing countries like India, which were looking to make gains following the introduction of the Agreement on Agriculture are now looking down the barrel - not only do they not have a fair chance of getting additional market access because of the bottoming out of the prices of commodities, their domestic markets face the threat of invasion by cheap imports. Does anyone need to be told what the implications of drastic cuts in tariffs in such distorted markets, in the absence of comprehensive reforms in the subsidies discipline would be for the developing countries?"

11. "COME SEPTEMBER" editorial in August 25 centrist THE TELEGRAPH: "Despite India's opposition, there is a possibility that Singapore issues will be unbundled and developing country resistance to their inclusion weaken, thanks to pressure exerted by developed countries ... There was an impasse because it was not clear whether this option

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

would only be available to the 49 least developing countries or to other developing countries also. Would imports from India, South Africa, Brazil and China be permitted? Would this safeguard only be applicable to diseases like tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS or would it cover other diseases? There are now signs that the United States of America has weakened its opposition ... There is also resistance in developing countries like India to liberalize agriculture ... The modalities for agricultural negotiations were supposed to be finalized by March 2003. That deadline was missed, and so far, there are no signs that Cancun will be especially successful. Also Cancun is a midterm meeting, and no member would like to publicly acknowledge that Cancun is a failure, even it does not deliver much."

INDO-PAK RELATIONS IN PAKISTAN

12. "NEGOTIATING WITH PAKISTAN," analysis in the August 25 centrist THE HINDU by strategic affairs editor C. Raja Mohan. "This week's talks between India and Pakistan on resuming air links between the two countries are likely to reflect the enduring complexity of Indo-Pakistan relations and the impossibility of progress even on small issues. The restoration of air links is in the interest of both countries and should have been a simple matter to deal with. But it has taken nearly four months to merely set the date for the talks on the subject ... Unless there is political intervention at the highest level in both the capitals, there is little prospect that the talks this week could lead to an easing of air travel between the two countries ... While the ban has hurt Pakistani airlines, India has suffered more. There are more Indian flights overflying Pakistani territory than those of Pakistan traversing Indian air space ... Without a political reconsideration of tactics and strategy, it is inevitable that Vajpayee's peace initiative will soon run out of steam. Any review of the current diplomacy towards Pakistan would necessarily have to reflect deeply on the nature of negotiations with the western neighbor. The record of the talks with Pakistan ... is a dismal one ... Unilateral actions by one or both can transform the political context and create conditions for a more productive engagement. Vajpayee can either see his peace initiative grounded by an excessive emphasis on a "step-by-step" negotiations between the two bureaucracies or make bold by experimenting with a series of unilateral steps to regain the political initiative towards Pakistan."

13. "PAK STUCK ON KASHMIR," editorial in August 25 DAINIK JAGRAN Hindi daily: "It was disappointing and frustrating to

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

note Pakistan Prime Minister Jamali's statement that there can be no solution to the Kashmir problem until the people of Kashmir are given the right of referendum. With this statement, Jamali has proved that he and Musharraf are basically two sides of the same coin. Jamali's statement displays the Kashmir fixation that is inherent in every Pakistani politician. Also, this shows that Pakistan is not desirous of building upon the goodwill arising out of the recent exchange of people and parliamentarians between the two countries ... Pakistanis need to be more adjusting and flexible. Rigidity will not lead to a solution ... At the same time, India needs to tread with caution in reacting to Pakistani rhetoric."

14. "PAKISTAN, KASHMIR AND INDIA," editorial in August 25 PUNJAB KESRI Hindi daily: "Pakistani leaders are very good at one thing -- sweet talk. Honey drips from their mouths when they interact with you, and they have mastered the art of politeness and civility of speech. And this trait has been running in their veins from the time of Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah, who told once very politely told Gandhi that he would quit his demand for partition if Nehru dropped his prime ministerial ambitions ... But sweetness of speech is where it all ends. From the Tashkent Agreement to the Shimla Accord to the Lahore Declaration, the Pakistanis have signed all treaties with India, but never lived up to them ... As for India, it is basically living in a fool's paradise while the world watches."

15. "NOOR'S SURGERY AND PAKISTAN'S STUBBORN POLITICS", op-ed article written by columnist Muzaffar Hussein in the August 25, Mumbai edition of right-of-center Marathi daily TARUN BHARAT. "Very few know that Pakistan had tried its best to politicize the heart surgery of the minor Pakistani girl, Noor, who was recently operated upon in India ... Although India's Prime Minister A B Vajpayee announced a fresh dialogue with Pakistan, the Indian government was cautious, and quite rightly so, about opening up the boundaries of both the countries. In the meanwhile, Pakistan initiated a worldwide misinformation campaign against India. Pakistan started projecting India as a heartless country which was depriving health care to a minor girl. When the Indian government ultimately launched the Lahore-Delhi bus service, Noor and her parents could avail of it to reach Bangalore. But none of the Pakistani newspapers reported the fact that Noor's journey could have been faster had she flown to India. Why was Pakistan not eager to open the skyway between India and Pakistan to save the little girl? ... It is pertinent to note that Noor is not the first Pakistani minor to be treated by the Bangalore-based Dr Narayan

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Sharma. Even when the Delhi-Lahore bus service was not functional, around three Pakistani children, (suffering from the same congenital heart ailment as Noor did), were operated upon by the same Indian doctor every month. Therefore, Noor's parents would have flown to India in any circumstance. But the Pakistani government twisted the surgery into a humanitarian issue ... Capitalizing on this non-issue of Noor's surgery, Pakistan intended to tarnish India's international image. Interestingly, it stood to gain even when India opened its boundaries, because the bus service is a relatively inexpensive mode of entry into India, especially for Pakistani infiltrators ... After Noor's successful heart surgery, none of the Pakistani newspapers or media (which had earlier flashed her photographs on the front page) has so far thanked India."

----- INDIA AND ISRAEL -----

16. "SAFFRON-ZION BHAI BHAI," analysis in the August 25 nationalist THE HINDUSTAN TIMES by Amulya Ganguli. "Left to itself, the BJP would have sent the Indian army to Iraq immediately after the American request. From its Jan Sangh days, the party has been pro-American in its outlook ... In addition to the Jan Sangh-BJP's anti-communism, another reason which made it gravitate towards the US was its pro-business economic line ... a third aspect ... the BJP's tilt towards Israel ... The BJP ... is more than a little pleased with the revival of the 'Hebrew nation' in Palestine ... The reason why the BJP wants to reach out to Israel is the perception that it is imbued with anti-Muslim feelings

because of Palestinian terrorism ... The BJP has always envied the ease with which Tel Aviv launches its offensives against the Palestinian targets. The saffron hawks have always been in favor of such attacks against the terrorists in Kashmir and their bases in Pakistan. Their supporters have often wondered why India cannot replicate Israel's military onslaughts against Muslim terrorists. The answer - that Israel can afford to do so because it has the unstinted support of the US - has never seemed convincing to the Hindutva hard-liners. They seem oblivious of the fact that, in this part of the world, it is Pakistan which has been an ally of the US for the last half a century. The BJP's ... wants India to replace Pakistan as America's first choice as an ally in South Asia and there by become the Asian Israel ... The moves for a US-India-Israel axis is significant in this context. The case for such a tie-up is that these

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

democracies should cooperate in the matter of fighting the Islamic menace ... The only fly in this ointment is that large sections of Indians may not take too kindly to an overt alliance with the Zionists and the American neo-cons (many of whom are Jews) if only because it will pit India directly against the Muslim world."

17. "AN ARIEL VIEW OF INDIA," analysis in the August 23 pro-BJP right-of-center THE PIONEER by M.L. Sondhi.

a. "Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has developed a coherent strategy for Israel-India ties which an approving New Delhi acknowledges as 'constructive and problem-solving' ... The Sharon doctrine views Indians and Israelis as strategic partners contributing to the stability, democracy and economic and technological development of the region to which both belong. Sharon and Vajpayee are committed to maintaining the military edge of their nations through defense cooperation. Sharon also believes India has a future in keeping the momentum towards a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. A second dimension of the Sharon doctrine is that Indians and Israelis (including their diasporas) should establish a unique partnership for high-technology production. Third, that both have enough diplomatic clout to resist pressure from quarters that want appeasement and defeatism instead of resolute opposition to repressive, tyrannical and terrorist forces ... On the practical level, recognition of the convergence of Indo-Israeli interests with the US's should lead to greater American leniency in interpreting restrictions on technology transfers to India.

b. "For Israel, a close multi-faceted bond with India would have significant political, diplomatic and strategic benefits. Indian support for beleaguered Israel on the international stage would significantly contribute to dispersing much of the animosity manifested towards it by many international organizations and help it break out of the cycle of censure whenever it endeavors to defend its vital interests assertively ... India's potential strategic advantages in its collaboration with Israel are a mirror image of those likely to accrue to the latter. While such collaboration may help Israel reduce the cost of its otherwise unaffordable research and development projects, it would also enable India to enhance its military capabilities in the short run and contribute towards the development of a high level of indigenous technological proficiency in the longer run."

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

18. "COOPERTING AGAINST TERROR," analysis in the August 23

centrist THE HINDU by P.S. Suryanarayana. "Riduan Isamuddin, the Indonesian better known as Hambali, is at the center of a diplomatic battle of wits that Jakarta is waging with Washington. On the surface, the issue at stake is quite simple: a demand by Jakarta for "a quick access" to Hambali, who is in American custody as a terrorist-suspect. However, the collateral implications of this demand run deep and, in fact, impinge on Washington's undisguised agenda as a self-styled supercop in the 'global war against terrorism.' ... What upset Indonesia is that one of its own nationals has been dealt with, virtually behind its back, by two other countries, one of which is a fellow-member of the ASEAN ... In a sense, Jakarta's claims of jurisdiction over Hambali go beyond his identity as an Indonesian national. He is wanted in connection with the Bali outrage ... In Indonesia's view, the absence of a bilateral extradition treaty with the U.S. should not be an insurmountable problem. In comparison, the U.S. is eager to make the most of Hambali's capture, given his suspected connections with an alleged accomplice of the hijacker-terrorists who was caught in Pakistan some time ago ... Indonesia's diplomatic tussle with the U.S. in this case brings into sharp focus how Washington tends to treat the South East Asian countries as either junior partners in or as players peripheral to its own 'interests' in the ongoing 'multilateral war on terrorism.' ... In East Asia, the general perception of terrorism corresponds to Paul Wilkinson's definition about the 'systematic use of coercive intimidation' and also 'violence' usually in pursuit of 'political ends.'

LIBERIA

19. "LIBERIA A VICTIM OF NAKED COMMERCIALISM," op-ed in August 25 DAINIK BHASKAR Hindi daily: "Liberia is burning. The U.S. has sent its forces to maintain law and order, but nothing seems to be working. Both the warring sides in Liberia are fighting with American weapons. The difference is that the government side buys them legally, while the rebels procure them from the open American market. This is today's truth: crass commercialism, where money can buy anything. And Liberia is a victim of this phenomenon."

IRAN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

20. "IRAN MINISTER LANDS ON NUKE MISSION" dispatch in August 24 centrist THE TELEGRAPH by New Delhi Diplomatic Correspondent Pranay Sharma: "Iran has despatched foreign minister Kamal Kharrazi to India and other countries to garner support for its nuclear program, which is fast putting Tehran on a collision course with Washington ... Iran, facing increasing pressure from the US to give up its nuclear weapons program, would want India and others to convince the US to resolve the impasse amicably . Kharrazi may take the opportunity to explain, to leaders in India and other countries he is scheduled to visit, his country's stand on the nuclear program and other issues, including the recent arrest of some al Qaida activists whom Tehran has lodged in jails ... Iran claims its nuclear program is 'exclusively peaceful' and the reactors at Bushehr are aimed at meeting its domestic power target. But the country, which has the world's second-largest deposit of natural gas and a substantial reserve of petroleum, has not been able to convince many with its argument. Questions have been raised in different quarters why a country like Iran will have to depend on nuclear energy to meet its power target. An

increasing number of countries are demanding that Tehran gives up its secret program to make nuclear bombs ... Tehran's worry has increased manifold after the Iraq war brought the American troops at its doorstep."

Blake

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED